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FTA NEWS

TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Vol. IX FEBRUARY, 1950 178 Price Five Cents

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Answer to CIO 'Trial'

FTA Smashes CIO Raid by 5 to 1; Local 78 Wins 7.5 to 42c Raises

What Does Expulsion Mean?

FTA has been expelled from affiliation to the CIO. The action was taken by the ruling group in the national CIO Executive Board February 15. It is effective March 1.

Why was FTA expelled? Because it hasn't done a good job for the membership? NO. President Murray and other CIO leaders admit FTA has done a good job for the membership.

Because FTA is "communist"? NO. CIO President Murray and other CIO officials admit that this is not the real issue.

Because FTA has not followed CIO objectives? NO. CIO President Murray and others have admitted FTA has carried out CIO objectives and policies.

Because FTA does not carry out the will of its own membership? NO. CIO President Murray and others have admitted this is not the reason.

Will FTA contracts be invalid because FTA is no longer affiliated to CIO? NO. FTA contracts will continue in force regardless of FTA affiliation or non-affiliation to any organization. The law says so.

For detailed answers to these and other questions on the meaning of the expulsion from national CIO see the Report to the Rank and File on page 3, and other articles in this issue of FTA News.

Shed Workers Vote FTA Union Shop 1,500 to 100

By a smashing 1,500 to 100 score, packingshed workers in the Imperial Valley Division of FTA Local 78 voted for an FTA union shop in two units covering 41 sheds.

The vote in the big unit, containing 31 sheds, was 1,537 to 170.

The second unit, consisting of 11 sheds, went FTA union shop in 10 of them. The 11th was lost only because, under Taft-Hartley rules, an absolute majority of all workers employed must vote yes. In this shed, though the FTA union shop was backed by a majority of those voting, not enough of the total number employed voted to clinch it.

Five sheds of the 11 shed unit also voted on the question of representation. These five voted overwhelmingly for FTA.

The workers in the Imperial Valley have thus clinched the gains won under years of FTA Local 78 representation, despite two full-scale previous raids by the AFL Teamsters and despite national CIO attempts to confuse the issues and bring about disruption and destruction of hard-won contract conditions.

(See stories, pages 3, 4)

FTA's rank and file in two widely separated areas of the nation handed down an opinion on the CIO "trials" and expulsion that will be long remembered by the raiders and would-be executioners of a fighting union.

The rank and file verdict was emphatic. In St. Joe, Missouri, it was a five to one vote for FTA Local 125 against the raiding Brewery Workers Union that sought to panic Quaker Oats workers out of FTA on a basis of red-baiting and hysterical cries of "communism."

In the vast fruit and vegetable packing industry in California and Arizona, the verdict came in a union shop contract bringing raises from 7.5 to 42.5 cents an hour to 8,000 FTA shed workers.

The score in the St. Joe election, where FTA Local 125 had to face both the CIO Brewery Union and the AFL Grain Millers, was:

For FTA Local 125	**409 votes**
For CIO Brewers	**71 votes**
For AFL	**75 votes**

The main—in fact, the only—propaganda point put out by the CIO Brewers Union was the "trial" and forthcoming expulsion of FTA by a rigged CIO trial committee and Executive Board. This, together with red-baiting on the loudest scale yet seen in a local contest, was all the Brewery leaders had to offer the Quaker Oats rank and file. The rank and file didn't respond the way the Brewery officialdom hoped they would.

BIGGEST GAINS

Local 78's new contract, won after a similar raid by the AFL Teamsters Union last summer, was negotiated in the middle of a similar red-baiting campaign against the union in the daily press and radio. Gains won included:

Hourly increases from 7.5 to 42.5 cents; piece rate increases from 12 to 30 cents; with the average at 15 cents and the whole business retroactive to Oct. 1.

Plus the union shop, won for the first time in what used to be one of the most notoriously open shop, vigilante-ridden industries in the nation.

As National Administrative Director Donald Henderson pointed out to the rank and file delegates at Local 78's convention:

"These increases were won under the most difficult conditions and at a time when some of the so-called big unions, such as steel and auto, were settling for pensions amounting to about five cents an hour.

"There must be some reason why Local 78 and FTA can move ahead and win gains for the membership while the so-called strong unions of CIO with unlimited resources settle for next to nothing.

"The reason is clear. It lies in a program—the program of FTA. A program that calls for democratic participation and struggle around the workers' demands. A program and a policy that reject any concept of union administration that denies the rank and file members of the union to conduct their own affairs."

FIGHTING PROGRAM OF FTA

This is the same democratic, fighting program that rallied the rank and file around FTA Local 125 in St. Joe. That, and the unity of the workers in the FTA organized Quaker Oats chain, defeated the CIO attempt to wreck the union.

These two FTA victories, and others detailed in this issue of FTA News, are the answer of the rank and file to the mania of trials and expulsions against progressive unions now being indulged in by the top leaders of national CIO.

FTA Local 19 Wins 10c Package, Other Gains

FTA Local 19 has just signed its first 1950 contract winning an approximately 10-cent package for its members in the McMillen Feed Mill, the Memphis, Tenn., plant of the Soya Company.

The wage increase and other contract improvements include an eight-cent across the board increase, a number of reclassifications of jobs into higher wage groups, one week additional paid vacation, making two weeks after two years, one additional paid holiday and other changes in the contract.

The successful conclusion of negotiations followed the setting up of close cooperation between the FTA Decatur plant of the Soya Company and the Memphis plant with Brother Hirschey of Local 44, Decatur, present at the last bargaining session. Brothers Roy Catchings, Troy Avery, L. H. Harris and Willie King are the members of the Memphis plant committee.

POLITICS IN CIO

By C. W. Fowler

As the CIO judges and CIO President Murray himself made clear during the trial and expulsion of FTA, the real issues in the trial were not "communism" or "failure to carry out CIO objectives."

Nor was the issue—in the minds of the CIO leaders—the record of FTA. That record was detailed to them by FTA's officers and rank and file witnesses and the CIO top brass was forced to admit it was a good one. Potofsky himself stated that FTA's record was not being questioned, and the fact that the trial committee made no attempt to attack it is proof.

The real issue, as FTA has pointed out, is the question of conformity—political conformity. "Conform or get out," as Walter Reuther put it at the Portland convention, is the key to the situation around the CIO trials and expulsions.

Political conformity, in the eyes of the CIO leaders, means conformity and subservience to the political party now in power in Congress and the White House—the Democratic Party.

The Democratic Party, of course, is the party that sold out first on the fight around the passage of the Taft-Hartley law and again, this year, on repeal. It is the party of complete betrayal of civil rights, of betrayal of civil liberties, the party of the purge and the witch hunt inaugurated by Truman himself with his infamous loyalty order and the political trials of Foley Square.

The main Congressional strength of the Democratic Party comes from the "solid South," the mixture of Southern bourbons and Dixiecrats that consistently blocks FEPC, politax repeal, anti-lynch laws and equally consistently votes for every anti-union measure and against anything of benefit to both southern and northern workers.

Despite all Truman's protestations — especially around election time—the northern Democrats that CIO leaders admire so greatly have never made a serious attempt to fight the power of this viciously anti-Negro and anti-labor bloc. On the contrary, Truman and the northern Democrats surrender to the Dixiecrats with such regularity that it looks as though they enjoyed doing it.

As a matter of record, FTA is the only organization in the country that has successfully stood up against the Southern Bourbons and the Dixiecrats and beaten them on their home grounds. FTA is the only organization that has successfully challenged the main reactionary base of the Democratic party machine.

One outstanding example of this is on the question of time and a half for overtime work. When the Wage Hour law was written, the Southern Bourborns insisted on and got exemption from the time and a half requirement for the industries in their area—mainly food and tobacco processing plants, plus cotton oil. The exemptions, of course, also penalize workers in other parts of the country, especially in the west and southwest.

One of the brightest pages in FTA's record is the way in which FTA has forced employers in these industries to pay time and a half for overtime, in spite of the specific exemption in the Wage and Hour law. FTA is the only union that has done this—the CIO Packinghouse Union, whose leaders now cast covetous eyes on FTA's membership, has signally failed to overcome this discrimination in the Wage Hour law.

FTA also successfully challenges the power of the reactionary Democratic machine in elections, as it did when Local 22 elected the first Negro to public office in Winston-Salem since the Civil War, as Local 26 did in Suffolk, Va., and as Local 57 did in Richmond, the old Confederate capital.

In each of these instances FTA faced not only the refusal of CIO to cooperate, but the active and vicious opposition of national CIO officials on the spot, as the trial brought out.

FTA represents scores of thousands of organized workers and speaks for millions of unorganized workers in the South, the Southwest and the West who are today politically disfranchised, by the polltax, by jim crow and by the migratory and seasonal nature of their work.

FTA speaks for millions of workers of minority and majority groups who do not vote because they are prevented from voting, and whose organization and eventual political activization would upset the stranglehold on American political life now held by the two main political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans.

The leaders of National CIO, who have tied themselves to the Democrats' apron strings, are aware of this. This is the basic political reason why CIO is today trying to destroy FTA in North Carolina, why CIO is today trying to raid FTA Local 78 in California and Arizona, and it is the basic politics back of the trial and expulsion of FTA.

The organization and political enfranchisement of the vast groups of politically disfranchised workers in the South, the Southwest, the West and elsewhere in the nation is a serious threat to the reactionary bourbons who control both major political parties.

FTA is the one union in the U. S. with the experience, the know-how and the program to organize and free these workers for active and decisive participation in their country's political life.

The powers that be in the Democratic Party know this—and so do their agents and tools in national CIO. They know it, and they fear it—and hence the present desperate effort to destroy FTA.

FTA Aids Miners

President Truman was urged by FTA's National Officers to fire National Relations Board Counsel Robert N. Denham for his anti-union acts against the United Mine Workers. In a wire to Truman the five FTA officers said:

"His (Denham's) record marks him as anti-labor and unfit for the job he holds. On behalf of the members of FTA we urge that you dismiss Denham immediately."

The National CIO Executive Board, meeting in Washington Feb. 15, took time out from expelling FTA and three other unions to send a similar message This was the first national CIO expression of support for the coal diggers.

CORRECTION

FTA News of January, 1950, incorrectly placed FTA Local 43 in Apopka, Fla., while the correct address is Dade City. The editor's apologies to all concerned.

Got Eight

Brother Walter W. Hill, president of FTA Local 84, Caldwell Morris, recording secretary and FTA Intl. Representative James Barnett went rabbit hunting recently. Morris and Barnett got two each and Hill got four.

638 Aids Miners; Elects Officers

Full support of the coal miners and sharp condemnation of the Truman action in getting an injunction against their union was voted by FTA Local 638, Lancaster, Pa.

The injunction was condemned as attempted government strikebreaking and as a threat to all unions. A $50 financial contribution was voted to the miners from the local's treasury.

Newly elected officers of the local are: Miriam Cliff, president and business agent; Edith Lonkoski, vice-president; Mary Dotterman, financial secretary; Florence Yeager, recording secretary; Andrew Dotterman, treasurer; Lilly Kistler, trustee, and Clarence Mull, sergeant-at-arms.

Shop stewards are: Maude Schelling, Elizabeth Koening, Nellie and Mary Dotterman, Marie Goebel, Verna Boyd, Theresa Meyer, Florence Yeager, Lilly Kistler, Edith Lonkoski, Ella Bleecher, Clarence Mull, Andrew Dotterman and Richard Sensenig.

Local 80 Scores On Union Shop

Three union shop victories—one of them unanimous, the other two by landslide majorities—were won by FTA Local 80, Camden, N. J.

The unanimous vote was in the Charles B. Knox plant, where four out of four voted for FTA. The vote in the big Consolidated Cigars plant was 398 to 40. In Siegel Cigar, the workers went for the FTA union shop by 131 to three. The Consolidated vote was taken in St. Joseph's parish hall.

Local 80 is active in support of the coal miners, has sent messages of support and has demanded that President Truman fire NLRB General Counsel Robert N. Denham.

"In the last war we joined with the communists to fight the fascists; in another war we will join the fascists to fight the communists." This is James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO, speaking at an American Legion conference on "Americanism" in New York City. Was little Jimmie "misquoted?" No. Does Jimmie deny he said it? No. Does Jimmie make any explanation for saying it? No. He said it airight, and it was quoted in the reactionary N.Y. Herald-Tribune.

* * *

The CIO Secretary's statement opens up some interesting possibilities. Jimmie has always maintained that such unions as FTA and UE are "communist." Does this mean he's going to join with fascists to fight UE and FTA? Is he, and other CIO leaders, ready to join the fascists in making war (as they do) on progressive unions? What kind of fascists is he willing to join—German ones, Japanese ones, or just plain American ones? Tune in for tomorrow's chapter in this thrilling serial of love and hate.

* * *

U.S. Steel's profits in 1949 were the highest in 20 years—$165,958,806. U.S. Steel workers, along with Bethlehem and the others, went[illegible] increase wh[illegible] workers' le[illegible] pension t[illegible] panies ab[illegible] hour. Maybe [illegible] the steelworkers [illegible] profound wisdom of t[illegible] ership. Right now, with [illegible] profits the highest in 20 [illegible] they can be pardoned if [illegible] looks a little funny to them.

* * *

General Eisenhower (CIO's one-time darling for President in '48) says the workers who crave security can get it in jail. The rugged life is for him. We're indebted to Federated Press for a few facts in Ike's personal security status. As a retired general, he has a lifetime pension of $360 a week. He gets $600 a week as President of Columbia University, will get a pension when he quits. His memoirs netted a cool $1,000,000. Be grateful, you $25 a month pensioner, that you have defenders like the General.

* * *

Campbell Soup, which has trouble (about six months of it so far) in giving its workers a wage increase, has just given $1,000,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for research. The research, however, is not in the living conditions of Campbell Soup workers. It's just in soup.

Negro History Week

Every year at this time progressive America marks Negro History Week, a time dedicated to reminding the nation of the great contributions to freedom and democracy made by Negro leaders in the present and in the past.

At first glance, it might seem peculiar that we have to have such a special week, and in a way it is, for every American, white or Negro, should be constantly aware of the great contributions made by Negroes to American democracy.

But such is the poison engendered by white supremacy that our schools, for example, deliberately fail to teach us anything of Negro history or the role of Negro leaders. Few children are taught anything about such leaders and fighters as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth or other great Negro liberators of the past.

Few workers, epecially white workers, know of these historic figures and fewer still know and recognize the great part played by their Negro brothers and sisters in the struggles of today.

We in FTA, where Negro and white unit is especially needed, do well to mark Negro History Week with respect and strong feelings of brotherhood and solidarity among all workers, regardless of race, color, creed, political belief or any other surface differences.

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America

Published monthly by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, at 17 Murray St., New York 7, N. Y.

Editorial Office: 20th and Race Streets. Philadelphia, Pa.

John Tisa ..... Acting General President and Director of Organization
Armando Valdes ..... General Secretary-Treasurer
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Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

Entered as Second Class Matter May 8, 1948, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. IX FEBRUARY, 1950 No. 2

FTA 'Tried,' Expelled by CIO for Upholding Right of the Members to Make Own Policies

REPORT to the RANK & FILE on the TRIAL & EXPULSION of FTA from the CIO

Following is a report on the trial and expulsion of FTA by the national Executive Board of the CIO, Feb. 15, 1950.

TWO HOUR TRIAL

As was expected, the trial of FTA by the ruling group in national CIO resulted in a "guilty" verdict from the CIO Executive Board February 15. At the end of the trail, FTA was expelled from CIO, effective March 1.

The trial lasted less than two hours. It consisted merely of a reading of the trial committee report and an automatic machine vote on the verdict already, agreed upon in advance.

FTA's representative on the national CIO Executive Board, Donald Henderson, took up more than an hour of the Board hearing in disproving the CIO charges and in defending the right of FTA's rank and file to form their own programs and policies and to carry them out in accordance with the will of the membership.

Henderson's defense, based on the record of FTA and on the democratic rights of trade unions, did not avail. The verdict was a foregone conclusion the moment the illegal and undemocratic trials began. The CIO Board merely acted as a rubber stamp.

To show how cut and dried the whole business was, the CIO had the charges, verdict and sentence against FTA mimeographed and distributed to the newspapers six hours before the CIO Board acted on it.

MAIN ISSUE

The trial, the verdict and the expulsion of FTA by the CIO Board boil down to one main issue:

Shall the rank and file of FTA have the right to form their own policies and adopt their programs free from outside interference from any source, or shall the national CIO dictate to the members of FTA what opinions, policies and programs they shall hold and adopt?

FTA maintains that only the members of FTA have the right to say what the programs and policies of their union shall be.

The ruling group in CIO holds that it has the right to dictate FTA opinions and policies, and that FTA members must obey or be thrown out.

It was on this basic issue that FTA was tried and expelled by the leaders of national CIO.

The issue was not "communism" or anything else. It was the right of the membership of FTA to run their own affairs in their own way.

CIO EVADES THE ISSUES

Although the basic issue of the trial was the right of FTA's rank and file to run their own affairs, the leaders of national CIO evaded and falsified this issue, along with other issues brought up by FTA's officers and rank and file witnesses during the trial and the final Executive Board meeting.

This was admitted in a backhanded way by several CIO leaders at the Board meeting, including President Murray and trial committee chairman Jacob S. Potofsky, who said: **"Will FTA agree to conform to all CIO policies?"**

This was answered by FTA National Administrative Director Donald Henderson, who replied:

"The CIO national Executive Board has a perfect right to establish by vote what is the official policy of national CIO, and once it is established nobody on the Board, or off the Board as far as that is concerned, can speak for national CIO policy except on the basis of that majority decision.

"However, any individual on the CIO Board, as the president or as an official of his own international union, is obligated to carry out whatever the decision of his own international union is, in speaking in the name of his union."

In doing this, Henderson was defending the right and duty of officers of autonomous international unions to express the opinions and carry out the policies of their own rank and file.

The duty of officers and members of international unions, such as FTA, to carry out the policies of their membership when they speak in their name, is paramount.

It is superior to any alleged obligation to "conform or get out," as CIO leaders put it at the last two CIO conventions.

This is the meaning of autonomy and democracy in the trade union movement. This is the point that FTA maintained throughout the trial and the expulsion meeting of the CIO Executive Board.

RIGHT TO DISAGREE

The American right to disagree was also involved in the CIO trial. Because FTA upheld this right, on behalf of its membership, it was accused of "not following the programs and policies of the CIO as set forth in the CIO constitution."

This was made clear by the way in which members of the CIO trial committee challenged and denied the right of FTA's membership to have different opinions from those held by national CIO.

These differences of opinion centered mainly around political and legislative questions, but they also included differences on wage questions, as when FTA opposed the wage-freeze policy of the United Steelworkers, the Auto Workers, the Textile Workers and other CIO unions during the past year.

For example, FTA has opposed the cold war foreign policy, has exposed the double-dealing of the Truman administration on Taft-Hartley, has sharply criticized Truman and the 81st Congress on issues such as the betrayal of civil rights, the use of government injunctions to break strikes, and other anti-minority and anti-union acts of the present party in power in Washington.

According to CIO trial committee chairman Potofsky, this is "communism." He said at the trial: **"The majority of working people are satisfied with what Truman has done. Only the Communists don't like it."**

The CIO trial committee and the Executive Board have made a new definition of "communism." **It is any disagreement with or criticism of the Democratic Party.** Tomorrow it could be the Republicans.

THUS THE RULE OF POLITICAL CONFORMITY IS INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

FTA does not believe in political conformity for members of unions or anybody else. FTA's international constitution specifically forbids any requirement of political conformity for membership in FTA. FTA believes in political freedom—including the right to agree and the right to disagree on political issues.

CIO IGNORES THE RECORD

FTA based its arguments against the trial and expulsion on the record of FTA victories for the workers in its industries as well as on the basic issue of democracy and autonomy in the trade union movement.

FTA's witnesses cited this record at length to the trial committee, and reviewed it again at the CIO Executive Board meeting on February 15.

This record, which shows how FTA has raised wages and living standards for hundreds of thousands of workers in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries, WAS TOTALLY IGNORED BY THE TRIAL COMMITTEE AND THE CIO BOARD.

No attempt was made to question the record, because it could not be questioned. The facts were there.

The record of FTA completely disproves all the CIO charges. It shows that FTA policies have been completely consistent with the original objectives of CIO and that these policies have resulted in great economic gains for food and tobacco workers. Yet this record was brushed aside by those who set themselves up in judgment against FTA.

Here is what CIO trial committee chairman Potofsky said to FTA officers and rank and file witnesses at the first hearing:

"The CIO charges are not that you have failed to do a job for the workers, but that you have failed to carry out CIO policies."

The same statement was repeated by Potofsky and by President Murray in the CIO Board meeting.

This maks it clear that the record does not count with CIO. Only CIO's charges count.

THE MEANING OF EXPULSION

As things stand, FTA is expelled from the CIO effective March 1. Technically FTA has the right to appeal to the 1950 CIO convention. As the trial and rubber stamp verdict show, that right does not have much significance.

This does NOT mean that FTA contracts are now invalid.

On the contrary, FTA contracts are just as valid as before. The thing that makes a contract stick is the unity and determination of the rank and file membership covered by the contract. If that stands, the contract stands. If the unity and determination of the membership weaken, the contract is weakened.

FTA members have seen this happen before, while FTA was an affiliate of CIO. All FTA contracts were won by FTA and by no other organization. No other organization or group has any right, real or alleged, to interfere with an FTA contract.

WHERE FTA STANDS

FTA believes that raising wages and living standards is the first job a trade union has to do for its members. Along with that goes the job of guaranteeing political freedom and democracy to all its rank and file.

FTA believes that the first duty of a union officer is to carry out the will of the membership of his union.

FTA believes that every international union has the right and the duty to adopt its own policies and programs, based on the will of the membership.

FTA believes the will of the membership is supreme.

The ruling group in national CIO believes differently.

The people now running national CIO believe that all international unions and their members must accept the dictates of CIO on every issue, whether or not these dictates agree or conflict with the will of the membership.

"Conform or get out" is the new rule.

NATIONAL CIO BELIEVES IN DICTATORSHIP.

FTA BELIEVES IN DEMOCRACY.

This is why FTA was expelled from CIO after 13 years of affiliation.

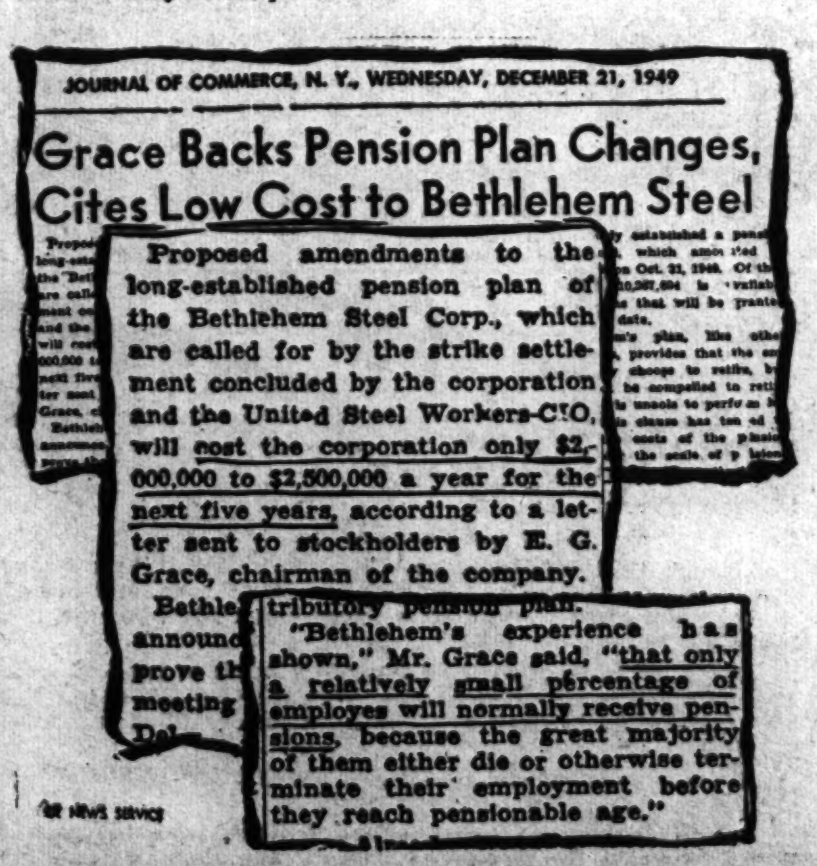
FTA has been "buried" before by its enemies. Its funeral sermon has been preached many times by the bosses, by raiders, by disrupters and by other enemies of the food and tobacco workers.

FTA is a militant, progressive, fighting union that refuses to be buried by anybody.

FTA is alive and kicking—as FTA has shown by stinging defeats handed to CIO and AFL raiders and disrupters over the past three years, and by contracts won for scores of thousands of FTA members in the past 12 months.

JUST SO LONG AS THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FOOD, TOBACCO AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN THE U.S.A. WHO NEED A FIGHTING UNION, FTA WILL BE THERE!

Signed: **John Tisa**, acting president; **Armando Valdes**, secretary - treasurer; **Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez**, vice-presidents; **Donald Henderson**, national administrative director.



JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1949

Grace Backs Pension Plan Changes, Cites Low Cost to Bethlehem Steel

Proposed amendments to the long-established pension plan of the Bethlehem Steel Corp., which are called for by the strike settlement concluded by the corporation and the United Steel Workers-CIO, will cost the corporation only $2,000,000 to $2,500,000 a year for the next five years, according to a letter sent to stockholders by E. G. Grace, chairman of the company.

Bethle... announc... prove th... meeting ... Del...

...tributory pension plan.

"Bethlehem's experience has shown," Mr. Grace said, "that only a relatively small percentage of employes will normally receive pensions, because the great majority of them either die or otherwise terminate their employment before they reach pensionable age."

...ge news service

The CIO Steelworkers contract with Bethlehem Steel Corp., one of the biggest profit makers in the industry, didn't cost the company much, as company Chairman E. G. Grace boasts in this Journal of Commerce article. Total cost will be from two to two and a half million dollars a year. This boils down to about four cents an hour per worker. This is the kind of settlement CIO is making nowadays—easy on the bosses and light in the worker's pocketbook.

Who says you can't eat spy scares!

CIO Only Loser, 194 Says on Expulsion

(Pointing out that "our contracts are still in force," and that the expulsion of FTA by the ruling group in national CIO has no effect on them, officers of FTA Local 194 issued the following statement, most of which is reproduced below.)

The action of the CIO leadership in expelling FTA and other unions can only weaken the American labor movement and lead to the destruction of the unions left in CIO.

The bankruptcy of present policies of CIO leadership was clearly shown in the rigged proceedings of the CIO Board which resulted in our expulsion.

FTA showed in detail and proved—and the CIO leaders did not deny—that our actions were not in violation of CIO constitutional objectives which are as stated: (1) organization of the unorganized; (2) collective bargaining; (3) respect for contracts; (4) progressive legislation.

FTA proved and the CIO leaders did not deny that all actions taken by our union were in accordance with the democratic decisions of our membership. FTA proved and the CIO leaders did not deny, that our actions were in the interests of our membership and of all working people.

"Communism" Not Issue

The CIO leaders made clear during the board meeting that the issue they were concerned with is not communism. The issue they were concerned with whether our union and its members agree to conform to any directive of CIO leadership, regardless of our members' own decisions and needs.

Philip Murray said: "We have the right to kick you out if you don't conform. Will you agree to conform?"

Th real reasons why FTA was expelled from CIO were: (1) We defend the rights of our members and of all international unions to determine their own policies and elect their own leadership. (2) We defend the principles of trade union unity to raise wages, improve working conditions and organize the unorganized workers without attempting conformity on political issues.

(3) We are determined to fight policies in the labor movement that lead to such statements as that made by CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey when he told an American Legion conference: "In the last war we joined with the communists to fight the fascists. In another war we will join the fascists to fight the communists . . ."

Will Fight Company Unionism

The CIO will in furtherance of the employers' desires attempt to charter a dual union to organize raiding. Local 194 has had to fight company unionism from its very inception. We will lick it again.

Local 194 has not received a penny's worth of support from CIO at any time. In many recent cases, the CIO leadership bitterly attacked FTA and sided with employers whom we were fighting.

We are proud of our record and the fighting ability of our members.

We will continue to fight for unity in the labor movement. We will continue to carry forward FTA's program, as determined by our membership.

This expulsion from CIO has no effect whatsoever on our contracts. We have lost nothing. Your contracts are still in force under FTA. We now know our enemies. CLOSE RANKS. WE WILL RESIST ANY ATTEMPT BY THE CIO TO HARM ANY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP BY RAIDING OR DISRUPTING INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OUR LOCAL. UNITED WE WILL WIN!

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS...

CONTRACTS HOLD

By JOSEPH CALIFF

Research & Education Director

What effect does the expulsion of FTA by the ruling group in CIO have on our contracts and bargaining rights?

In a nutshell, the answer is: NONE.

Questions about this may be brought up in some locals. In one or two plants, company stooges have been heard spreading rumors that FTA's disaffiliation from the CIO means that the contract between the union and the company may be cancelled.

All such rumors are completely false, no matter what source they may come from.

The fact that FTA is no longer in CIO makes no change whatever in the standing of FTA contracts. FTA's right to represent the workers in bargaining with companies and in holding contracts remains exactly as before.

This position has been upheld by the National Labor Relations Board and the Federal courts.

FTA Is The Agent

In addition to what the law says, it is a matter of actual record that our members were organized by FTA into FTA, the companies negotiated with FTA, and all union activities are carried on by FTA.

The contracts are in the name of FTA and are enforced by FTA locals affiliated to the FTA International.

Once the right of FTA to negotiate for the workers been won, it is none of the company's business whether or not FTA is affiliated to a national labor federation, whether it be CIO, AFL or any other. This is entirely a matter for FTA alone to decide. The boss has nothing to say about it, nothing to do with it, and no issue of affiliation or non-affiliation can rob FTA or its rights in the contract.

No Need For Confusion

There is no reason for confusion on this subject. Your contract is still in full force and effect even though it may contain the words "affiliated to the CIO" or just the initials "CIO" in its preamble.

Your contract is an FTA contract, in which the international union has a definite, legal interest that nobody can set aside.

If the company or anyone else tries to tell you anything different, get in touch at once with your FTA International Representative or with the FTA National Office in Philadelphia.

194 Wins Raise; Union Shop Up

A straight across the board raise of five cents an hour, plus "token" retroactive pay for the past five months featured the new contract signed by FTA Local 194 at Standard Brands, Chicago.

The union shop was agreed to by the company as soon as a National Labor Relations Board election is scheduled and won by the union.

The token back pay is $3.00 a month for five months, a total of $15.00 for each worker. The contract runs for two years. Top minimum is now $1.20 an hour.

Harold Becker, chairman; Michael Jurcenko, Ethel Kodidek, James Nommensen, Frank Milley, Frank Caserio, Cecilia Niprikas and Fred Lauritzen signed for the Standard Brands Division negotiating committee. Local 194 Prsident John Gallacher signed for the local and for the international.

Local 7 Lists 4 Points For Asparagus Workers

After three successive meetings of asparagus union workers the Field Workers Division of the FTA, Local 7, has officially notified J. W. Halleen, manager of the Californit Asparagus Growers of the union's desire to have a conference with the growers before actual "grass" cutting commences.

Local 7, FTA is the same union which led the 1948-49 asparagus strikes with a signed membership of 3,000 asparagus workers.

The four points which the union representatives wish to discuss with the growers' association are as follows:

1—The question of wages and conditions.

2—Housing and other facilities in the camps.

3—The question of the hold-back or bonus in wages.

4—Grievance procedure on discrimination as to union affiliation, recognition, etc.

The letter to Halleen was signed by Chris Mensalvas, Local 7 president; N. V. Mariano, Portland agent; Vincent Cabebe, for the branch Negotiating commiteee; and Pablo S. Valdez, Stockton branch agent.

A mass meeting for all asparagus workers is scheduled by the union to endorse the four-point program before the end of the month as the workers had done last year.

MR. BLOWHARD
...AND BY INCREASING YOUR OUTPUT YOU WILL HAVE A HIGHER LIVING STANDARD..!
ONE MONTH LATER...
SPLENDID! NOW WE CAN CUT COSTS BY STARTING THE LAYOFFS!
OUTPUT PER WORKER